Asks Citizens to Dedicate Selves to "Unfinished Task"

Col. Sprague Delivers Stiring Message at Winnetka Common

Editor's Note: Out of consideration for those who were unable to attend the Memorial Day exercises on the Village Common, WINNETKA TALK is pleased to publish herewith the address of the day given by Col. A. A. Sprague, distinguished World War hero and can- a time. didate for the United States Senate from Illinois. Col. Sprague's talk, which was based fundamentally on the famous Lincoln Gettysburg speech, appealed for dedication by the citizenry of the nation "to the unfinished work which they who had fought have thus far so nobly advanced." Every reader of WIN-NETKA TALK will want of review and meditate over this address at leisure.

You have listened to the reading of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Those chard, taken by your Corps and under words belong to the ages and will be read as long as the nation endures. For they helped to establish this day as a memorial celebration and a day of dedi-

link is worthy our best thought. One I hope that the nation, reunited, may alsentence particularly appeals to us to- ways enjoy the honor and glory brought day. He said, "It is for us the living to it by that grand work. rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought your Governor and your 'fellow-comhere have thus far so nobly advanced."

There was an unfinished task. There is still an unfinished task. It is great and difficult. It challenges all the strength of our manhood and womanhood today. It demands the best efforts of the generation that comes after us. Others who are boys and girls now, must take up the responsibility of government where we leave off. These boys and girls should learn this lesson, that no matter how many failures in government there may be, this government does represent the struggles and sacrifices of millions of men and women who have served it with no selfish purpose.

Peace Has Problems

A great work remained to be done when Peace was declared at the close of the Civil War. Peace has its problems. They were almost as difficult as those of War. Our soldiers fought to prevent a divided nation and to preserve a united country. What they accomplished by arms they had to preserve by effort. Their sacrifices would be useless unless the energy of war had been diverted to the work of peace and reconstruction. For each new generation would have to face the problem anew.

This was done by the united efforts of the North and the South. On all sides were the evidence of the wastage of war. But with a firm resolve that the great unfinished work must be completed, North and South alike took up their burdens, destroyed their hatreds and built the foundations of our national unity.

The Great Readjustment

There was a readjustment and reconciliation between the North and the South which had to be effected by the same generation which fought the war, because if that generation died unreconciled and bequeathing its resentments and hatreds to a younger generation, the undertaking would have been almost hopeless.

I want to read you a letter that came from a great general of the Confederates to a great general of the Union Forces almost forty years after the Civil War was finished:

Washington, September 19, 1902. "General D. E. Sickles, Gettysburg, Pa.

My dear General Sickles:

"My plan and desire was to meet you at Gettysburg on the interesting ceremony attending the unveiling of the Slocum monument, but today I find myself in no condition to keep the promise made you when last we were together. I am quite disabled from a severe hurt in one of my feet, so that I am unable to stand more than a minute or two at

"Please express my regrets to the noble Army of the Potomac, and accept them especially for yourself.

"On that field you made your mark that will place you prominently before the world as one of the leading figures of the most important battles of the Civil War. As a northern veteran once remarked to me, 'General Sickles can well afford to leave a leg on that field,' and I believe that it is now conceded that the advanced position at the Peach Oryour orders, saved that battlefield to the Union cause.

"It was the sorest and saddest reflection of my life for many years; but today I can say, with sincerest emotion, that it was and is the best that could They form a chain of noble ideas. Each come to us all—North and South—and

"Please offer my kindest salutations to rades of the Army of the Potomac. Always sincerely yours,

(Signed) James Longstreet, Lt. Gen'l Confederate Army."



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Cites Unfinished Task

finished tasks.

It was a war to prevent a divided waged at a greater cost. Never one that

world, a world slowly but surely dis-The last great war also left its un- integrating from a burden of misunderstanding, intrigues and hatred. What Lincoln said of the country world in which might was threatening might in a larger way be said of the to rule right and not right to rule might. world at the close of the great war. Never in human history was a war

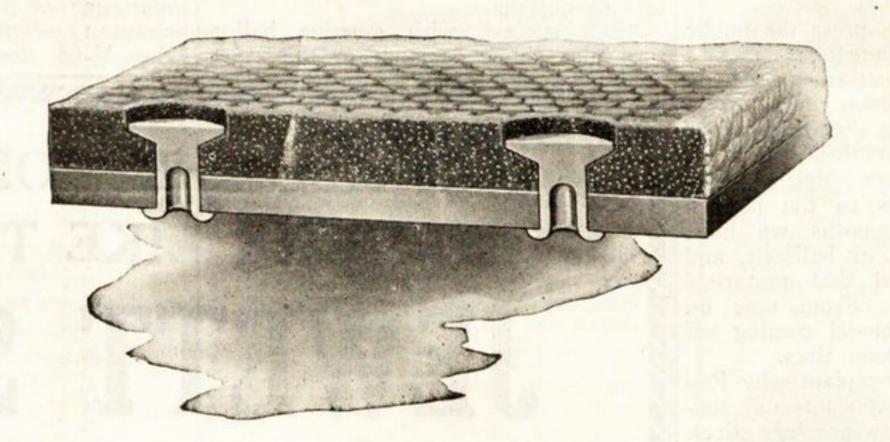
was more filled with tragic disaster to a great section of the world. Victory was gained at a cost which the world will feel for many generations and to which we contributed our part.

Some say our contribution of men Continued on page 23

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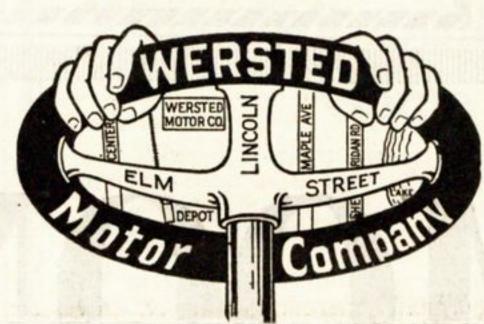
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